THE FOURTH DAY.

15th February 1917.

The Assembly met at 11-30 A. M. on Thursday, the 15th February 1917.

33. Need for passing the Christian Succession Bill into law.

Mr. V. J. Joseph, B. A., B. L. (Member, Nominated) said that, since the Bill had already become law, he had only to submit the thanks of his community both to His Highness the Maha Raja and the Dewan for having given them such a piece of legislation. The Member assured the Government that Regulation II of 1092 would be a standing monument of His Highness' solicitude for the welfare of his Christian subjects and that the act of kindness would ever be cherished in grateful memory by his community.

34] Impropriety of passing the Christian Succession Bill into law without ascertaining the views of the people affected by it.

C1 *Mr. Chandi Mani Andrew Fereira* (Member, Shertallai taluk) said that he had sent in his memorandum of subjects before the Bill was passed into law and that, as the Bill had already become law, he had only to offer certain suggestions in regard to the amendments that might be found necessary.

The Member said that it was encouraging that the Government were ready to consider the question of making suitable amendments, whenever any provision was found to be unworkable or injurious to the interests of the people concerned, and requested that, whenever any section was found to require amendment, the opinion of the people might be taken by means of a responsible Committee so that the conflicting views on the point could be ascertained. An equal number of the representatives of both views should be allowed to be present in the Council when the amendments were being considered and their arguments should be fully heard. That would enable the members of the Council to vote either for or against the proposed amendments. Referring to clause 1 of section 4 of the Regulation, the Member said that it was not clear whether the exemption of any individual from the operation of the whole or any part of the Regulation would affect his descendants. The wording should be made clear so as to make the section applicable to the descendants also. The Member was of opinion that there would be many persons desiring to get exemption. He prayed that facilities might be afforded for such men to get exemption without being put to unnecessary difficulties. He also suggested that applications for exemption under provisos 1 and 2 of section 4 might be made by means of an affidavit attested by a responsible officer and that such applications be exempted from the payment of Court-fees.

In conclusion, he thanked the Government for having given the community a substantive law and said that, in spite of several differences of opinion in regard to certain points, the whole Christian community would cherish within their hearts feelings of gratitude to the Government for the law.

Mr. Ittoop Korathu (Member, Alengad taluk) said that he too gave notice of the subject before the Bill had become law. He then presented, for the consideration of Government, his memorandum in which he had stated that the Regulation had prejudicially affected the interests of the Syrian Christian community in particular, especially those who were living in the northern taluks, that the latter community

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